



## Texas Department of Public Safety Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

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<b>Event Name</b>	Fertilizer Plant Explosion SITREP #3
<b>Date</b>	04/19/2013
<b>Time</b>	04/19/2013, 0700 Hours -04/19/13, 1900 Hours
<b>Operational Period</b>	0700-1900
<b>Report Number</b>	#3

### Regions Affected

<b>DPS Regions Affected</b>	Region 6
<b>DDC's Active</b>	Waco 11/23

### STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:

The State of Texas received a report of an explosion in North Central Texas at the West Fertilizer Plant in the City of West, McLennan County. The explosion occurred at approximately 7:50 p.m., on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Numerous injuries have been reported, with some people still missing. Due to health and safety concerns, evacuation of a significant portion of the community was conducted. The fire at the plant is contained; however, significant damage was reported to structures within several blocks of the plant, including a middle school, nursing home, numerous residences, and businesses. An Incident Command Post (ICP) was established at Saint Mary's Church and a staging area was also activated. The State Operations Center activated at Level II (Escalated Response) beginning at 0700 hours on 4/18/13 to support emergency response operations. Governor Perry has issued a proclamation, declaring a state of disaster in McLennan County.

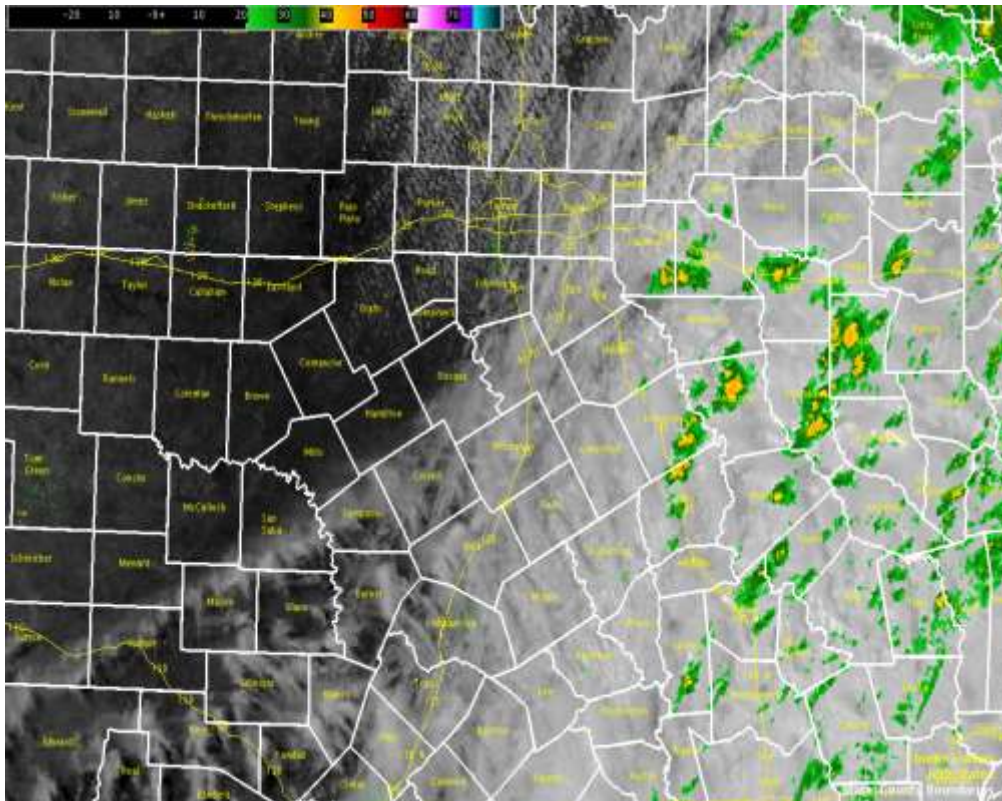


## INFRASTRUCTURE:

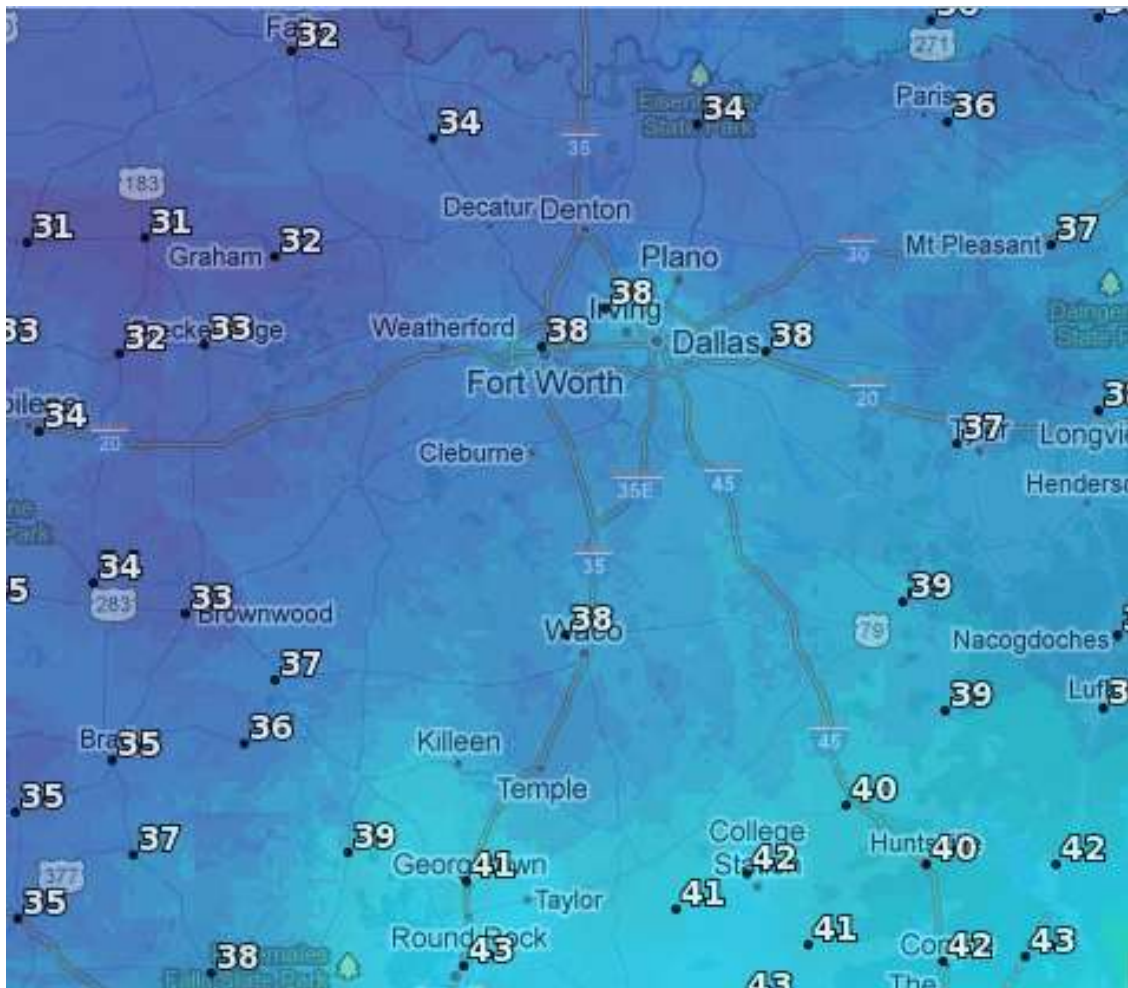
Oncor Electric Facilities were impacted by the explosion and many customers are unable to receive power because of the damage to Oncor facilities. The utility provider has had staff on-site since Wednesday night, and is working closely with local emergency management officials. The City of West Public Water System is offline due to damage to water lines around the site of the explosion. Personnel are attempting to isolate the south-side of the system to restore service. A boil-water notice will be issued when service is restored. Cottonwood Water Supply provided water to the fertilizer plant and received damage close to the impacted area. Cottonwood Water Supply isolated the damaged area and has restored adequate pressure to the rest of the system. Hilltop WSC is also in the area, but sustained no damage. AT&T has confirmed that their Central Office in West was not impacted. AT&T is assessing other infrastructure and is prepared to deploy mobile cellular units, if needed.

## WEATHER:

National Weather Service (NWS) Southern Region Headquarters forecasts no significant rainfall for the next 48-72 hours. Today is expected to be sunny, starting out with a low of 38 increasing to a high near 65. North northwest winds 5 to 10 mph increasing to 10 to 15 mph in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph. This evening is expected to be mostly clear, with a low around 38. North wind around 5 mph becoming south southeast after midnight.



Saturday is expected to be sunny, with a high near 69. South wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.



#### OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Conduct Search and Rescue Operations.
3. Support rapid & effective response.
4. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve timely decision-making.
5. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

#### REGION 6 (DDCs 11, 23)

**County: McLennan:** A local state of disaster was declared.

**Disaster District Committee (DDC) Waco:** The DDC is fully activated, identifying needed resources and providing coordination of state resources assigned to the DDC. DDC Waco will conduct 24-hour operations through the night, and into the next operational period.

**City of West:** The City of West has declared a state of disaster. Area Command at the McLennan County EOC was activated at 1900hrs on 04/17/2013 with a mobile



incident command post (ICP) on scene. Staging and triage areas were originally established at the City of West, High School but were relocated due to the proximity of the evacuation zone and potential additional safety concerns from the plant.

**Federal Aviation Administration (FAA):** The Federal Aviation Administration issued temporary flight restrictions due to hazardous conditions on 04/18/2013. Flight restrictions cover a radius of 3 nautical miles, and extend from the surface to 3000 feet above ground level.

**Texas Salvation Army:** The Salvation Army continues to provide 5 feeding canteens for West.

**American Red Cross (ARC):** Coordinating with local officials on sheltering support and responded to provide feeding support.

**Southern Baptists Texas Council (SBTC):** Disaster Relief volunteers are responding to the needs in West, Texas resulting from the explosion of the fertilizer plant. SBTC Chaplains are serving to assist the families of those who suffered injury and the families of those who lost their lives. SBTC Chaplains are also serving to assist the first responders who responded to the scene of the explosion. Shower/Laundry units have also been established in West. Volunteers are being housed at the First Baptist Church of Gholson, Texas.

**Areas Hospitals:** Multiple area hospitals provided emergency medical care to injured citizens.

**STATE AGENCY RESPONSE:** Activated state resources included

State Agencies Actively	Type of Specialized Equipment being Utilized/Status Report
Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS) Highway Patrol	Support to DDC Waco activation, traffic control, local law enforcement support.
TXDPS Criminal Investigations Division (CID)	Investigative support and personnel
The State Fire Marshall's Office	Investigative support and personnel
Texas Military Forces (TXMF)	6th Civil Support Team (CST) supporting requirements, determine support requirements for Texas Military Forces. Monitoring 6CST Activations through JTF71(MEB) DCO Monitoring SOC SITREPs. Postured to receive resourcing request and coordination from DDC
Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)	Personnel, traffic control, fuel support teams. 2 Traffic Management Teams, Street Closings, Manning Barricades.
Texas Task Force 1 (TTF1).	Urban Search & Rescue Type I Team, Search and Rescue K-9 Teams
Texas Department of Insurance (TDI)	State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) staff is on-site and partnering with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to conduct a joint investigation of the

	incident. TDI Consumer Protection resources and the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) are available to assist those affected by the incident. TDI's Consumer Help Line and a toll-free TDI Consumer Help Line assistance are available in both English and Spanish. A webpage has been established for individuals affected by the disaster on the TDI website.
Texas Task Force 2 (TTF2).	Type III Task Force
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)	Air Quality Monitoring, monitoring water issues in town possible boil water notice, planning for rotation of all crews.
Department of State Health Services (DSHS)	2 Mortuary Trailers, Mobile Morgue Unit, 2 Medical Incident Support Team (MIST) personnel, State Medical Operations Center (SMOC) is activated. 2 AmBuses from Schertz and Cisco deployed to City of West. 1 Rapid Assessment Team (RAT). Critical incident stress to 1 <sup>st</sup> responders, shelter coord/status, local health coord., verified EMS coverage w/local medical director currently have coverage for 1 week
Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)	Regional State and District Coordinator staff to support DDC Waco and impacted local jurisdictions. Assist with a Temporary Morgue, Family Assistance Center opened at 2pm 4/18/13, Incident Management Team, and Donations Management.
Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS)	Incident Management Team Planning Section. DDC Support, Planning, Liaison to Fire Departments, providing Chief of Party to Type 3 IMT
Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC)	Support MIST with patient tracking and Emergency Tracking Network (ETN), support WebEOC operations, support DC with STAR requests
American Red Cross (ARC).	Shelter Coordination and Support, Emergency Response Vehicle (ERVs)
Texas Salvation Army	Providing canteen support for impacted citizens and first responders
2-1-1 (HHSC)	Texas Information Referral Network
Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC)	2 personnel to provide assistance with deceased domestic animals. Covering large animal issues, initial assessment all livestock in good shape up to the border of blast.
Communications Coordination Group (CCG)	AT&T to provide cellular on wheels (COW) to provide additional cellular communications capability
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)	Two supervisors and ten Game Wardens to establish perimeter roadblocks and conduct site security.
Texas Education Agency (TEA)	Coordinating with local school district concerning damage to school(s).
Civil Air Patrol (CAP)	Conducting aerial photography in support of Search and Rescue Operations.
Medical Incident Support Team (MIST)	Entering into ETN board and WebEOC receiving updates from hospitals on patient counts and discharges, tracking patient locations
Heart of Texas	Input patient location and information into ENT board, working

Regional Advisory Council (HOTRAC)	with MIST section for patient tracking, monitoring the regions hospital bed status
Office of the Texas State Chemist (OTSC)	OTSC has dispatched Investigators J. Russell Scott, Scott Sanders, and Brent Sexton, as needed, to fulfill it's role to assess the West Fertilizer site for ammonium nitrate security and to provide technical assistance, as needed, to the Incident Command and responding agencies (i.e., Texas Commission for Environmental Quality, BATF, etc.) regarding possible residual fertilizer recovery.

Shelters					
Type	Name	Address	Capacity	Census	Status
GP	Abbot High School	219 S. 1 <sup>st</sup> St. Abbott, TX	150	0	Open
GP	TSTC	Police Opening TSTC Rec. Center	150	7	Open

Health Care Facilities Affected				
Type	Name	Address	Beds	Comments
	Hillcrest	100 Hillcrest Medical Blvd.		66 Treated & Released 21 Admitted 14 Discharged
	Providence	6901 Medical Parkway 76712		51 Treated & Released 13 Admitted 5 Discharged
	Hill Regional	101 Circle Dr. Hillsboro, TX. 76645		39 Treated & Released 3 Transferred out
	Scott and White	2401 S. 31 <sup>st</sup> St. Temple, TX. 76508		3 Admitted
	McLane Children's	Temple		2 Admitted
	Methodist	Dallas		1 Admitted
	Children's	Dallas		1 Admitted
	JSP	Fort Worth		3 Admitted
	Parkland Burn Center	Dallas-Fort Worth		2 Admitted
	Old Kings Daughters	Temple		2 Children
	West Resthaven Nursing Home	West		128 – transferred to other assisted living facilities

**Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS):** The Texas A&M Forest Service began mobilizing resources on 4/17/13 to assist at the West Incident Command Post (ICP),

Waco DDC, and the State Operations Center (SOC). Currently three personnel are working at the SOC, three personnel are onsite at the Waco DDC, and a 12-person Type III IMT is deployed to the West ICP. The TAMFS Mobile Command Post and Communication Trailer are at the ICP. Three additional Type 3 IMTs were restored and available for deployment if needed.

**Texas Task Force 1 & 2 (TTF1 and TTF2):** TTF1 Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) Type I Team to include Damage Assessment Personnel for collapse structure assessment have been deployed. A Search and Rescue K-9 Team has also been deployed. TTF2 Type III Search and Rescue Task Force have also been deployed. SAR personnel are conducting primary and secondary searches in the affected area.

**Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):** The DSHS State Medical Operations Center (SMOC) has been activated. DSHS has deployed a Texas Funeral Director Association (TFDA) Strike Team with two Mortuary Trailers. One portable morgue unit was staged in Waco, and is expected to be deactivated. Two Medical Incident Support Team (MIST) team members and a Rapid Assessment Team (RAT) have also been activated. DSHS reports that there is one long term care facility that has closed in the impact zone, the residents have been transferred to other local assisted living facilities. Disaster Behavior Health Services deployed one staff member from Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

DSHS Response Assets
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Responding/Deployed Personnel	Quantity/# Personnel	Resource Location
SMOC members	16	SMOC
RAT members	2	SMOC
MIST members	2	DDC/Waco
Disaster Behavioral Health (DBH) Team	1	DDC/Waco
<i>Total Personnel</i>	25	

Supplies and Equipment
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Responding/Deployed Personnel	Quantity/# of Personnel	Resource Location
Medical Buses (w/ SUV Command Vehicle)	3	DDC/Waco
Type II MMU	1	West, TX
Morgue Trailers	2	West, TX
DPMU	1	West, TX
<i>Total Supplies and Equipment</i>	7	

**Texas Military Forces (TXMF):** TXMF received two STAR requests, and has deployed eight vehicles and twenty personnel from the 6th Civil Support Team (CST) to West Middle School to assist with chemical substance detection. A TXMF Military District Coordinator (MDC) has also been deployed to Waco to support the DDC. The CST has completed an entry to place air monitoring equipment around the west side of

the perimeter of the fertilizer plant. The HazMat Command had a safety stand down during a thunderstorm, lasting approximately 2 hrs. CST is preparing entry teams to reset or change water filters on Area RAEs; and to conduct a light site recon with Waco HazMat. Personnel are using a Down Range Camera to record footage of the site and observe hand-held instrumentation from a slowly moving vehicle. The TXMF Homeland Response Force (HRF) was placed on standby to provide decontamination and Search and Extraction, and has been released.

**Communications Coordination Group (CCG):** Activated to provide additional emergency communication resources and/or support if needed.

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):** TCEQ is providing air monitoring and technical assistance. A strike team and mobile command post were deployed to the scene. A TCEQ contractor provided a summary of monitoring by hand-held instruments. All readings for ammonia and Gastech units were less than 1 part per million (ppm). All readings for nitrogen oxides (NOX) by MultiRAE were also less than 1ppm. MultiRAE lower explosive limit reading was less than 1%. VOC readings by MultiRAE units were less than 1ppm. The only elevated readings obtained were for particulate matter (smoke, dust, etc.) with a maximum reading of 0.19 milligram per cubic meter (mg/m3) and an average of 0.022 mg/m3. All readings were within a safe range.

**Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):** Has deployed two 300-gallon fuel trailers to provide fuel for emergency vehicles. Sixteen TxDOT personnel and seven trucks are closing city streets to control access to the affected area. Two personnel and four trucks are conducting refueling operations using truck-bed fuel tanks. Three TxDOT personnel are assisting with coordination and communication efforts at the EOC in West. Two other available sites for refueling are located in Waco and Hillsboro.

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):** Two supervisors and ten Game Wardens responded to the explosion on 4/17 to establish perimeter roadblocks and conduct site security with TXDPS. TPWD will be working three 8-hour shifts starting at 0600 on 4/18/13 with 1 supervisor and 10 Game Wardens.

**Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC):** Provided personnel to support animal evacuation, and to assist with damage assessment.

**Office of the Texas State Chemist:** Dispatched investigators to provide assistance as needed, and to prepare for recovery operations.

**2-1-1 (Health and Human Services Commission):** Providing public information via calls made to the Texas Information Referral Network 2-1-1.

**Public Information Officer (PIO)/Joint Information Center (JIC):**

Media requests continue to be received and are being forwarded to the Public Information Office.

**Texas Education Agency (TEA):** Coordinating with local school district concerning damage to the middle school in West.

**Civil Air Patrol (CAP):** Conducting aerial photography in support of Search and Rescue Operations.



**Texas Department of Insurance (TDI):** The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) is providing assistance through the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO), its Consumer Protection resources, and the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) to assist those affected by the incident. As the lead fire investigation agency for Texas, SFMO staff is on-site and partnering with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to conduct a joint investigation of the incident. TDI's Consumer Help Line hours have been extended to 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. The toll-free TDI Consumer Help Line is 1-800-252-3439, and assistance is available in both English and Spanish. A webpage has been established for individuals affected by the disaster on the TDI website at: <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/>.

**FINAL COMMENTS:** The SOC is at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) in support of the Fertilizer Plant Explosion. The Texas Division of Emergency Management is supporting emergency response operations and coordinating state resource support as required. The next situation report will be published on Friday, April, 19, 2013.

**The four levels of SOC activation are:**

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

*This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at [www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem).*

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